

St. Francis

Francis cleans his paws
tongue working gingerly
between the toes.
He's been running all
day in the rocks
after a yr of lawn
& rugs.

Ernie

Unexpectedly I'd see Ernie
after stomach cancer
whittled him down to
diet of strawberries
& he died. I'd see
him drive by in
an unfamiliar car
a Hudson or DeSoto
wearing dandruff flecked
pinstriped suit & stetson.

Old Crow

At noon parked Farmall
behind wall of cattails
left it running undressed
swam a bend in Pit
river shotgun held overhead
commando style climbed
steep mud bank planted
feet flicked safety off
rose aiming at crow
high in its willow perch
& nerve fired at empty
branches leaves & sky.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands, Calif.

Call

Phone rings
11:13 in bed
dopey with sleep
race to kitchen
heart banging ...
it's Dalton ...
something about art.

Trout

Sometimes you got to
knock out the brain
to get down to it --
down to the magic ...
bellie kissing stones
with the trout.

Ted's Old Lady

Ted next door dropped
dead one nite last
winter now his old lady
brings me beer wants
to yak with my
old lady knows
I'll let her in
if she's got beer.

John Frank

Little John Frank
came today to
collect for the Bee
doesn't know how to
make change relies
solely on honesty.